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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing environmental information to users, comprising the steps of:
 - measuring environmental information automatically by each of a plurality of environment sensors arranged at a plurality of regions;
 - collecting the environmental information measured by each environment sensor automatically ~~to~~ in a base device;
 - storing the environmental information collected from the plurality of environment sensors at in the base device;
 - processing the environmental information at in the base device according to a user information of an individual user when the environmental information exceeds a threshold, wherein the user information includes threshold information; and
 - providing processed environmental information from the base device to the individual user through a network connecting the users and the base device.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein at the processing step and the providing step, an information protection is applied with respect to the user information and the processed environmental information to be provided to the individual user~~ further comprising the steps of:
 - storing a correspondence table indicating a correspondence between a plurality of pollen allergy symptoms of the user and a plurality of pollen amount levels; and
 - judging a user's pollen allergy symptom that corresponds to the obtained pollen amount level in the user's correspondence table.

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wherein the processed environmental information provides the judged user's pollen allergy symptom as pollen warning information.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at the collecting step, the environmental information is collected through a radio communication system and/or a wired communication system connecting the environmental sensors and the base device.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at the collecting step, each environment sensor transmits the environmental information either automatically or in response to a request from the base device.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
commanding a measurement condition setting update from the base device to at least one environment sensor when the environmental information measured by the at least one environment sensor meets a prescribed condition for judging a need for sensor measurement condition change.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at the providing step, the base device provides the environmental information for a current location of the individual user which is registered by the individual user in advance or automatically detected according to a communication with the individual user, or the environmental information for a location close to the current location, in response to an information acquisition request made by the individual user through the network.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at the measuring step, each environment sensor measures an amount of pollens scattering at a region in which each environment sensor is arranged, such that the base device collects pollen amount information from each environment sensor at the collecting step, processes the pollen amount information to obtain pollen information at the processing step, and provides the pollen information at the providing step.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein at the processing step, the base device applies statistical information processing including integrating processing and averaging processing with respect to the pollen amount information collected from the environment sensors, such that the base device stores the pollen amount information and processed pollen amount information at the storing step.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein at the storing step, the base device stores the pollen amount information along with date and time information indicating date and time at which the pollen amount information is obtained, and
the base device processes the pollen amount information for each region as a function of the date and time information at the providing step.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein at the processing step, the base device judges whether each region is in a state with little pollens or a state with many pollens, according to the pollen amount information, and
the base device provides the pollen information indicating a state of each region as the state with little pollens or the state with many pollens at the providing step.

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11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein at the processing step, the base device produces a pollen distribution area information indicating regions in the state with little pollens and regions in the state with many pollens in a form of a map, and/or a pollen border information indicating a border between the regions in the state with little pollens and regions in the state with many pollens on the map, and

the base device provides the pollen information including the pollen distribution area information and/or the pollen border information at the providing step.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the processing step includes the steps of:

storing the pollen information indicating the state of each region in a pollen information database;

storing the user information of each user including a user ID and a user specified region which are registered by each user, in a personal information database; and

updating the pollen information database when the state of one region has changed as a result of repeating the judging step by using newly obtained pollen amount information, while searching through the personal information database to acquire user IDs of relevant users who registered said one region as the user specified region; and

wherein the base device provides the pollen information for notifying a change of the state of said one region to the relevant users according to the user IDs acquired from the personal information database at the providing step.

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13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the processing step includes the steps of:

judging a pollen amount level of each region according to the pollen amount information for each region as one of a plurality of pollen amount levels, and storing the pollen amount level of each region in a pollen information database;

storing the user information of each user including a user ID, a user specified region, and a correspondence table indicating a correspondence between the plurality of pollen amount levels and a plurality of pollen allergy symptoms of each user which are registered by each user, in a personal information database;

searching through the pollen information database to acquire the pollen amount level of the user specified region of each user, while searching through the personal information database to acquire the correspondence table of each user; and

obtaining one pollen allergy symptom of each user that corresponds to the pollen amount level of the user specified region of each user acquired from the pollen information database according to the correspondence table of each user acquired from the personal information database; ~~and~~

wherein the base device provides the pollen information including a pollen warning information that indicates said one pollen allergy symptom to each user at the providing step.

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14. (Currently amended) An environmental information providing system, comprising:
- a plurality of environment sensors arranged at a plurality of regions and configured to measure environmental information automatically;
 - a first communication unit configured to collect the environmental information measured by each environment sensor automatically;
 - a database configured to store the environmental information collected from the plurality of environment sensors by the first communication unit;
 - a processing unit configured to process the environmental information stored in the database according to a user information of an individual user when the environmental information exceeds a threshold, wherein the user information includes threshold information; and
 - a second communication unit configured to provide processed environmental information obtained by the processing unit to the individual user through a network connecting the users and the environmental information providing system.
15. (Currently amended) The environmental information providing system of claim 14, ~~wherein the processing unit and the second communication unit apply an information protection with respect to the user information and the processed environmental information to be provided to the individual user, further comprising:~~
- a correspondence table unit indicating a correspondence between a plurality of pollen allergy symptoms of the user and a plurality of pollen amount levels; and
 - a judging unit configured to judge a user's pollen allergy symptom that corresponds to the obtained pollen amount level in the user's correspondence table,
 - wherein the processed environmental information provides the judged user's pollen allergy symptom as pollen warning information.

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16. (Currently amended) The environmental information providing system of claim 14, wherein the first communication unit collects the environmental information through a radio communication system and/or a wired communication system connecting the environmental sensors and the environmental information providing system.

17. (Original) The environmental information providing system of claim 14, wherein each environment sensor transmits the environmental information either automatically or in response to a request from the environmental information providing system.

18. (Original) The environmental information providing system of claim 14, wherein the first communication unit also commands a measurement condition setting update to at least one environment sensor when the environmental information measured by the at least one environment sensor meets a prescribed condition for judging a need for sensor measurement condition change.

19. (Original) The environmental information providing system of claim 14, wherein the second communication unit provides the environmental information for a current location of the individual user which is registered by the individual user in advance or automatically detected according to a communication with the individual user, or the environmental information for a location close to the current location, in response to an information acquisition request made by the individual user through the network.

20. (Original) The environmental information providing system of claim 14, wherein each environment sensor measures an amount of pollens scattering at a region in which each environment sensor is arranged, the first communication unit collects pollen amount information from each environment sensor, the processing unit processes the pollen amount information to obtain pollen information, and the second communication unit provides the pollen information.

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21. (Original) The environmental information providing system of claim 20, wherein the processing unit applies statistical information processing including integrating processing and averaging processing with respect to the pollen amount information collected from the environment sensors, and

the database stores the pollen amount information and processed pollen amount information.

22. (Original) The environmental information providing system of claim 20, wherein the database stores the pollen amount information along with date and time information indicating date and time at which the pollen amount information is obtained, and

the processing unit processes the pollen amount information for each region as a function of the date and time information.

23. (Original) The environmental information providing system of claim 20, wherein the processing unit judges whether each region is in a state with little pollens or a state with many pollens, according to the pollen amount information, and

the second communication unit provides the pollen information indicating a state of each region as the state with little pollens or the state with many pollens.

24. (Currently amended) The environmental information providing system of claim 23, wherein the processing unit produces a pollen distribution area information indicating regions in the state with little pollens and regions in the state with many pollens in a form of a map, and/or a pollen border information indicating a border between the regions in the state with little pollens and regions in the state with many pollens on the map, and

the second communication unit provides the pollen information including the pollen distribution area information and/or the pollen border information.

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25. (Original) The environmental information providing system of claim 23, wherein the processing unit stores the pollen information indicating the state of each region in a pollen information database; stores the user information of each user including a user ID and a user specified region which are registered by each user, in a personal information database; and updates the pollen information database when the state of one region has changed as a result of repeating the judging step by using newly obtained pollen amount information, while searching through the personal information database to acquire user IDs of relevant users who registered said one region as the user specified region; and

the second communication unit provides the pollen information for notifying a change of the state of said one region to the relevant users according to the user IDs acquired from the personal information database.

26. (Currently amended) The environmental information providing system of claim 20, wherein the processing unit judges a pollen amount level of each region according to the pollen amount information for each region as one of a plurality of pollen amount levels, and ~~storing~~ stores the pollen amount level of each region in a pollen information database; stores the user information of each user including a user ID, a user specified region, and a correspondence table indicating a correspondence between the plurality of pollen amount levels and a plurality of pollen allergy symptoms of each user which are registered by each user, in a personal information database; searches through the pollen information database to acquire the pollen amount level of the user specified region of each user, while searching through the personal information database to acquire the correspondence table of each user; and obtains one pollen allergy symptom of each user that corresponds to the pollen amount level of the user specified region of each user acquired from the pollen information database according to the correspondence table of each user acquired from the personal information database; and

the second communication unit provides the pollen information including a pollen warning information that indicates said one pollen allergy symptom to each user.

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27. (Currently amended) A method for providing an environmental information service from a service system to users, comprising the steps of:

offering processed environmental information obtained by processing environmental information collected from a plurality of environment sensors arranged at a plurality of regions when the environmental information exceeds a threshold, according to a user information of an individual user, wherein the user information includes threshold information, for accesses from the user through a network connecting the users and the service system; and

providing the processed environmental information from the service system to the individual user through the network.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein at the providing step, the service system provides the environmental information in response to an access made by the individual user through the network.

29. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein at the providing step, the service system provides the environmental information for a current location of the individual user which is registered by the individual user in advance or automatically detected according to a communication with the individual user, or the environmental information for a location close to the current location, in response to an information acquisition request made by the individual user through the network.

30. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein each environment sensor measures an amount of pollens scattering at a region in which each environment sensor is arranged, such that the service system collects pollen amount information from each environment sensor and processes the pollen amount information to obtain pollen information at the offering step, and provides the pollen information at the providing step.

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31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein at the offering step, the service system judges whether each region is in a state with little pollens or a state with many pollens, according to the pollen amount information, and
the service system provides the pollen information indicating a state of each region as the state with little pollens or the state with many pollens at the providing step.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein at the offering step, the service system produces a pollen distribution area information indicating regions in the state with little pollens and regions in the state with many pollens in a form of a map, and/or a pollen border information indicating a border between the regions in the state with little pollens and regions in the state with many pollens on the map, and
the service system provides the pollen information including the pollen distribution area information and/or the pollen border information at the providing step.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the offering step includes the steps of:

storing the pollen information indicating the state of each region in a pollen information database;

storing the user information of each user including a user ID and a user specified region which are registered by each user, in a personal information database; and

updating the pollen information database when the state of one region has changed as a result of repeating the judging step by using newly obtained pollen amount information, while searching through the personal information database to acquire user IDs of relevant users who registered said one region as the user specified region; and

wherein the service system provides the pollen information for notifying a change of the state of said one region to the relevant users according to the user IDs acquired from the personal information database at the providing step.

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34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the offering step includes the steps of:

judging a pollen amount level of each region according to the pollen amount information for each region as one of a plurality of pollen amount levels, and storing the pollen amount level of each region in a pollen information database;

storing the user information of each user including a user ID, a user specified region, and a correspondence table indicating a correspondence between the plurality of pollen amount levels and a plurality of pollen allergy symptoms of each user which are registered by each user, in a personal information database;

searching through the pollen information database to acquire the pollen amount level of the user specified region of each user, while searching through the personal information database to acquire the correspondence table of each user; and

obtaining one pollen allergy symptom of each user that corresponds to the pollen amount level of the user specified region of each user acquired from the pollen information database according to the correspondence table of each user acquired from the personal information database; and

wherein the service system provides the pollen information including a pollen warning information that indicates said one pollen allergy symptom to each user at the providing step.

35. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein at the providing step, the service system provides the environmental information along with additional information related to pollen allergy.

36. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of:
charging an information fee for the processed environmental information provided by the service system, to the individual user.

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37. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein at the providing step, the service system provides the environmental information along with advertisement information of a sponsor, and the method further comprises the step of:

charging the advertisement fee for the advertisement information to the sponsor.

38. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

storing a correspondence table indicating a correspondence between a plurality of pollen allergy symptoms of the user and a plurality of pollen amount levels; and

judging the user's pollen allergy symptom that corresponds to the obtained pollen amount level in the user's correspondence table;

wherein at the processing step, the processed environmental information is the judged user's pollen allergy symptom as the pollen warning information.

39. (New) A method for providing environmental information to users, comprising the steps of:

measuring environmental information automatically by each of a plurality of environment sensors arranged at a plurality of regions;

collecting the environmental information measured by each environment sensor automatically in a base device;

storing the environmental information collected from the plurality of environment sensors in the base device;

processing the environmental information in the base device according to a user information of an individual user;

providing processed environmental information from the base device to the individual user through a network connecting the users and the base device; and

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commanding a measurement condition setting update of all sensors in a region for carrying out the measurement from the base device, when at least one sensor operated to carry out the measurement in a selected region measures a large amount of pollens.

40. (New) An environmental information providing system, comprising:

a plurality of environment sensors arranged at a plurality of regions and configured to measure environmental information automatically;

a first communication unit configured to collect the environmental information measured by each environment sensor automatically;

a database configured to store the environmental information collected from the plurality of environment sensors by the first communication unit;

a processing unit configured to process the environmental information stored in the database according to a user information of an individual user;

a second communication unit configured to provide processed environmental information obtained by the processing unit to the individual user through a network connecting the users and the environmental information providing system; and

a commanding unit configured to command a measurement condition setting update of all sensors in a region for carrying out the measurement, when some sensor operated to carry out the measurement in a selected region measures a large amount of pollens.